

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 OES-06

/084 W

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R 270900Z APR 76 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2433

UNCLAS CAIRO 5627

AMCONSUL PORT SAID SENDS.

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT, ELTN, EG

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC AND RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION

1. MASHHOUR AHMED MASHHOUR, CHAIRMAN CANAL AUTHORITY, GAVE
ME FOLLOWING FIGURES ON SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC:

A. TOTAL TONNAGE NOW 154 PERCENT OF 1966 AVERAGE.

B. TOTAL TRANSITS NOW 82 PERCENT OF 1966 AVERAGE, I.E.
45 TRANSITS PER DAY AS OPPOSED TO 55 IN 1966.

C. TANKER TRANSITS NOW 30 PERCENT OF 1966 AVERAGE.

D. APRIL 18, 1976, MOST ACTIVE DAY SINCE RE-OPENING
CANAL WITH 68 TRANSITS.

2. MASHHOUR SAID THAT THE PROJECT TO WIDEN CANAL WILL
BE UNDERTAKEN IN TWO STAGES, THE FIRST TO BE COMPLETED
IN 1979 AND THE SECOND IN 1982. THE FIRST WILL WIDEN
AND DEEPEN CANAL SUFFICIENTLY TO ACCOMMODATE
VESSELS UP TO 300,000 TONS IN BALLAST AND BURDENED VESSELS
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OF UP TO 150,000 TONS. SECOND STAGE WILL PERMIT CANAL
TO ACCOMMODATE PASSAGE OF VESSELS UP TO 400,000 TONS
IN BALLAST AND 250,000 TONS BURDENED.

3. CHAIRMAN, CANAL AUTHORITY, ALSO INDICATED
PRESIDENT SADAT, DURING LATTER'S MARCH VISIT TO
ISMAILIA, ORDERED THAT CONSTRUCTION ON ISMAILIA-
PORT SAID RAILROAD BE COMPLETED BY MID-OCTOBER 1976.
WORK ON THIS LINE IS UNDERWAY, AND IT NOW EXTENDS A
SINGLE TRACK NORTH OF ISMAILIA ABOUT TEN MILES.
MASHHOUR EXPECTS WORK CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE END OF
YEAR.
EILTS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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